

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LONDON REGIONAL COUNCIL  
HELD ON SUNDAY 10 JULY 1983 30% IRISH CENTRE CAMDEN.

Concern was expressed by those delegates present at the poor attendance of this meeting by branches.

Extreme disquiet was also voiced at the non-attendance by either the officers of the council or any members of the London regional executive (who had been the subject of discussion and Resolution at the last general meeting of the council).

The Resolution, dated 29.5.83, was read out -

"That the next meeting of the London regional council discuss the role of the (London) executive and instructs the members of the said executive to attend that meeting and that the minutes of all meetings convened by this executive be brought to the next meeting of the LRC."

A discussion took place regarding the status of the LRC, its history to the present time and its role for the future. It was acknowledged that the council had made valuable contributions to the development of the London branches - as had individual members. It was felt however that the council had been unable to keep up with the rapid growth and needs of the London IBRC and that its format needed to be reviewed. In view of the advice by members of the NEC that the council was for the organisational benefit of the London branches and had no policymaking functions delegates felt it appropriate to consider formalising its structure along normal democratic lines to ensure that it began to act as the delegated collective voice of the London branches.

Delegates felt that the most constructive way forward therefore was to produce model standing orders for the council and to call a special meeting of the council in 3 weeks time to approve those standing orders, accept any amendments and elect officers to the reconstituted London regional council.

It was further felt that, as the London regional executive had operated without the knowledge or consent of the London branches and appeared not to have contributed whatsoever to the organisational functions of the council, it therefore had no role to play within the London regional structure and should be disbanded.





With the above in mind the following standing orders were formulated -

- 1/ The LRC should <sup>solely</sup> comprise two delegates (with voting rights) plus one <sup>1</sup> observer (non-voting) from each branch. Branches unable to be represented at a LRC meeting should ensure that apologies are submitted to the LRC secretary.
- 2/ Delegates should be nominated by branches initially for a period of not less than 6 months.  
(It was felt that this would ensure a level of continuity at LRC meetings. It was accepted however that branches should retain the right to withdraw or extend the mandate to their delegates).
- 3/ Nominated delegates who are unable to attend an LRC meeting should submit their apologies to the LRC secretary. Branches should have the right to nominate a substitute delegate for attendance at that meeting.
- 4/ Motions proposed, seconded and adopted as Resolutions by branch meetings may be put to LRC meetings without the need of a seconder.  
(It was felt that branches are not yet in sufficient contact with each other to agree views in advance of LRC meetings. The requirement of a seconder at an LRC meeting would be likely to prevent debate).
- 5/ Motions must be submitted by branches and not by individuals.
- 6/ The minutes of the previous LRC meeting, agenda of the following meeting and all relevant discussion papers should be circulated by the LRC secretary to branch secretaries at least two weeks prior to the date of the next meeting.
- 7/ The Officers of the council should include Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Asst. Secretary and Treasurer. Officers should be elected initially for a period not exceeding 6 months.  
(To allow the council the opportunity of electing the



most qualified person to be Chair, to avoid restricting the council's choice to only those who are at present members of the NEC - given that the numbers of London regional members of the NEC may increase or decrease following conference elections - and to ensure that individuals do not, by their non-attendance, either prevent LRC meetings or create non-constitutional ones it was felt appropriate for both the elected Chair and Vice Chair to be nominated for co-option onto the NEC (without voting rights) where this proves necessary).

8/. Branches should submit copies of their meeting minutes to the LRC secretary for inclusion under branch reports.

9/. The agenda of LRC meetings should include the following -

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes of the previous meeting
- (c) Matters arising
- (d) Correspondence
- (e) Reports - Officer
  - Branch
  - Delegation
  - NEC
- (f) Motions
- (g) Any other business.

10/. The LRC should send two official observers to NEC meetings and these should not be NEC members.

(It was recognised that the NEC had ruled against observers being present during NEC meetings. It was felt however that this was undemocratic and could lead to branches feeling unrepresented or misled on issues - even though there could possibly be no justification for those feelings. On the basis that justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done it was felt that the council should debate the issue with a view to urging branches to pass Resolutions condemning this decision and calling upon the NEC to reconsider).



11. Delegations from the LRC to official bodies should be debated and approved by an LRC meeting. Delegates should be nominated by their branches and their names forwarded to the LRC secretary. An agenda of items to be discussed should be approved by the council and should be adhered to by the delegation. Where possible a written statement should be formulated by the council to be presented by the delegation. A full report should be given to the following LRC meeting.
12. The quorum for an LRC meeting should be 3 branches (in accordance with recommended guidelines).

A long discussion took place on the structure and control of financial matters with regard to the council. It was felt that a written report should be submitted by the treasurer to the meeting each month. Decisions on financial matters should be approved by 75% of those delegates present and voting. It was felt that a full LRC meeting should be convened as soon as possible to debate the whole issue of finance and the LRC.

The following motions were proposed by the Lambeth branch -

- (a) ".... that this branch urges the LRC to adopt a Resolution calling upon the NEC to initiate an open committee of enquiry (encompassing impartial groups of MPs, councillors NCCs etc) to examine the trial documents and all other relevant material in relation to the case of the Birmingham, Guildford and Woolwich public house bombings and the Maguire family and friends."
- (b) ".... that the branch requests the LRC to pass a Resolution urging the NEC to formally contact the Irish government protesting at our ambassadors objectionable references to hypothetical links between this organisation and the IRA and his unsatisfactory response and conduct during the recent IBRA delegation."

Both Resolutions were adopted unanimously by the LRC meeting.